



VIEWING AND READING ORDER

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ABBREVIATION KEY:

BE	B5 episode (filmed)
BF	B5 film (TV or direct-to-DVD)
BP	B5 episode (proposed but not written)
BT	B5 film (theatrical—unproduced)
BU	B5 episode (unfilmed)
CE	Crusade episode (filmed)
CU	Crusade episode (unfilmed)
DC	B5 comic (DC, monthly)
DL	B5 novel (Dell)
DM	B5 comic (DC, miniseries)
DN	B5 novelization (Del Rey)
DR	B5 novel (Del Rey)
LT	B5 comic (with <i>Lost Tales</i> DVD)
MP	B5 novel (Mongoose Publishing) ¹
SA	B5 short story (<i>Amazing Stories</i>)
SC	B5 short story (Claudia Christian) ²
SO	B5 short story (<i>Official Magazine</i>)
WS	B5 graphic novel (WildStorm—unproduced)

Not included: role-playing games, video games, cookbooks, etc.

¹ Three of the unpublished Mongoose novels were released as a PDF.

² Claudia Christian's short story was released as a PDF.

NOTE: This viewing/reading order is intended for those who have already seen the series and are going through it a second time, chronologically. If you follow this order on first viewing, you'll be spoiled. Therefore, during your first time, you should:

- Watch and read *In the Beginning* at 2278, instead of before season 1.
- Read *The Shadow Within* after watching "Z'ha'dum," instead of before season 1.
- Read *To Dream in the City of Shadows* after watching "Grey 17 Is Missing," instead of after reading "In Darkness Find me."
- Read Del Rey's three novel trilogies after watching *Crusade*
- Read *Visions of Peace: A Rangers Novel* at 2263, instead of before season 1.

BEFORE SEASON 1	2115–2189	
• DR1	The Psi Corps Trilogy I: Dark Genesis—The Birth of the Psi Corps	
BEFORE SEASON 1	2195–2258	
• DR2	The Psi Corps Trilogy II: Deadly Relations—Bester Ascendant	
BEFORE SEASON 1	2232	
• MP3	Visions of Peace: A Rangers Novel	[backstory]
BEFORE SEASON 1	2245–2248	
• BF2	In the Beginning	[main narrative]
• DN1	In the Beginning (novelization)	[main narrative]
BEFORE SEASON 1	2256–2257	
• DL7	The Shadow Within	
• BF8	The Road Home	[in part]
BEFORE SEASON 1	2257	
• BF1	The Gathering	
SEASON 1	2258	
"Signs and Portents"		
• BE1	Midnight on the Firing Line	
• BE2	Soul Hunter	
• BE3	Born to the Purple	
• BE4	Infection	
• BE5	The Parliament of Dreams	
• BE6	Mind War	
• BE7	The War Prayer	
• BE8	And The Sky Full Of Stars	
• BE9	Deathwalker	
• BE10	Believers	
• BE11	Survivors	
• BE12	By Any Means Necessary	
• BE13	Signs and Portents	
• BE14	TKO	
• BE15	Grail	
• BE16	Eyes	
• BE17	Legacies	
• BE18	A Voice in the Wilderness, Part 1	
• BE19	A Voice in the Wilderness, Part 2	
• BE20	Babylon Squared	
• BE21	The Quality of Mercy	
• BE22	Chrysalis	
BETWEEN SEASONS	2258–2259	
• DR7	The Passing of the Techno-Mages I: Casting Shadows	
• DR8	The Passing of the Techno-Mages II: Summoning Light	

"The Coming of Shadows"

- DL9 To Dream in the City of Sorrows [main narrative]
- DC1 In Darkness Find Me
- BF8 The Road Home [in part]
- BE23 Points of Departure
- BE24 Revelations
- DC2 Treason
- DC3 In Harm's Way
- DC4 The Price of Peace
- DL1 Voices
- BE25 The Geometry of Shadows
- DC5 Shadows Past and Present, Part 1: With Friends Like These
- DC6 Shadows Past and Present, Part 2: Against the Odds
- DC7 Shadows Past and Present, Part 3: Survival the Hard Way
- DC8 Shadows Past and Present, Part 4: Silent Enemies
- DC9 Laser-Mirror-Starweb, Part 1: Duet for Human and Narn in C Sharp
- DC10 Laser-Mirror-Starweb, Part 2: Coda for Human and Narn in B Flat
- DC11 The Psi Corps and *You*
- BE26 A Distant Star
- BE27 The Long Dark
- BE28 A Spider in the Web
- BE29 Soul Mates
- BE30 A Race Through Dark Places
- DL3 Blood Oath
- BE31 The Coming of Shadows
- MP2 Ranger Dawning
- BE32 Gropos
- BE33 All Alone in the Night
- BE34 Acts of Sacrifice
- BE35 Hunter, Prey
- BE36 There All the Honor Lies
- BE37 And Now For a Word
- BE38 In the Shadow of Z'ha'dum
- BE39 Knives
- BE40 Confessions and Lamentations
- DL2 Accusations
- BE41 Divided Loyalties
- BE42 The Long, Twilight Struggle
- BE43 Comes the Inquisitor
- DL4 Clark's Law
- BE44 The Fall of Night
- DL6 Betrayals

"Point of No Return"

- BE45 Matters of Honor
- BE46 Convictions
- DL5 **The Touch of Your Shadow, The Whisper of Your Name**
- BE47 A Day in the Strife
- BE48 Passing Through Gethsemane
- BE49 Voices of Authority
- BE50 Dust to Dust
- BE51 Exogenesis
- BE52 Messages From Earth
- BE53 Point of No Return
- BE54 Severed Dreams
- BE55 Ceremonies of Light and Dark
- BE56 Sic Transit Vir
- BE57 A Late Delivery from Avalon
- BE58 Ship of Tears
- BE59 Interludes and Examinations
- WS1 **Untitled graphic novel** *[unpublished, unavailable]*
- BE60 War Without End, Part 1
- BE61 War Without End, Part 2
- BE62 Walkabout
- BE63 Grey 17 Is Missing
- DL9 **To Dream in the City of Sorrows** *[framing story]*
- BE64 And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place
- BE65 Shadow Dancing
- BE66 Z'ha'dum

BETWEEN SEASONS***2260–2261***

- DR9 **The Passing of the Techno-Mages III: Invoking Darkness**

"No Surrender, No Retreat"

- BE67 The Hour of the Wolf
- BE68 Whatever Happened to Mr. Garibaldi?
- BE69 The Summoning
- DL8 Personal Agendas
- BE70 Falling Toward Apotheosis
- BE71 The Long Night
- BE72 Into the Fire
- DM1 In Valen's Name, Part 1
- DM2 In Valen's Name, Part 2
- DM3 In Valen's Name, Part 3
- BE73 Epiphanies
- BE74 The Illusion of Truth
- BF3 Thirdspace
- DN2 Thirdspace (novelization)
- BE75 Atonement
- BE76 Racing Mars
- BE77 Lines of Communication
- BE78 Conflicts of Interest
- BE79 Rumors, Bargains and Lies
- BE80 Moments of Transition
- BE81 No Surrender, No Retreat
- BE82 The Exercise of Vital Powers
- BE83 The Face of the Enemy
- BE84 Intersections in Real Time
- BE85 Between the Darkness and the Light
- BE86 Endgame
- BE87 Rising Star
- BE88 The Deconstruction of Falling Stars *[in part]*

BETWEEN SEASONS***2261–2262***

- MP1 Baptism of Fire

"The Wheel of Fire"

- BE89 No Compromises
- BE90 The Very Long Night of Londo Mollari
- SO22 Hidden Agendas
- BE91 The Paragon of Animals
- BE92 A View from the Gallery
- BE93 Learning Curve
- BE94 Strange Relations
- BE95 Secrets of the Soul
- BU1 Gut Reactions
- BE96 Day of the Dead
- BE97 In the Kingdom of the Blind
- BE98 A Tragedy of Telepaths
- BE99 Phoenix Rising
- BE100 The Ragged Edge
- BE101 The Corps is Mother, The Corps is Father
- BE102 Meditations on the Abyss
- BE103 Darkness Ascending
- BE104 And All My Dreams, Torn Asunder
- BE105 Movements of Fire and Shadow
- BE106 The Fall of Centauri Prime
- SA597 The Shadow of His Thoughts
- BE107 Wheel of Fire
- BE108 Objects in Motion
- BE109 Objects at Rest
- BF8 The Road Home [in part]
- SA599 Genius Loci
- SC1 Red Fury

BETWEEN B5 AND CRUSADE**2263**

- MP3 Visions of Peace: A Rangers Novel [main story]
- BF4 The River of Souls
- DN3 The River of Souls (novelization) [unpublished, unavailable]

BETWEEN B5 AND CRUSADE**2265**

- SO24 The Nautilus Coil
- BF6 The Legend of the Rangers: To Live and Die in Starlight

BETWEEN B5 AND CRUSADE**2266**

- BF5 A Call to Arms
- DN4 A Call to Arms (novelization)

CRUSADE**2267**

- CE1 War Zone
- CE2 The Long Road
- CE3 The Well of Forever
- CE4 The Path of Sorrows
- CE5 Patterns of the Soul
- CE6 Ruling from the Tomb
- CE7 The Rules of the Game
- CE8 Appearances and Other Deceits
- CE9 Racing the Night
- CE10 The Memory of War
- CE11 The Needs of Earth
- CE12 Visitors from Down the Street
- CE13 Each Night I Dream of Home
- CU14 To the Ends of the Earth *[published at Bookface.com]*
- CU15 Value Judgments *[published at Bookface.com]*
- CU16 Darkness of the Soul *[script unavailable]*
- CU17 (title unknown) *[script unavailable]*
- CU18 Tried and True *[published in script book]*
- CU19 Sword Trilogy, Part 1: War Story *[published in script book]*
- CU20 Sword Trilogy, Part 2: The Walls of Hell *[script unavailable]*
- CU21 Sword Trilogy, Part 3: (title unknown) *[script unavailable]*
- CU22 End of the Line *[published at Bookface.com]*
- CU23 Little Bugs Have Lesser Bugs *[published in script book]*

AFTER CRUSADE**2262–2266**

- DR4 Legions of Fire I: The Long Night of Centauri Prime

AFTER CRUSADE**2266–2273**

- DR5 Legions of Fire II: Armies of Light and Dark

AFTER CRUSADE**2269**

- SO23 True Seeker

AFTER CRUSADE BEFORE**2271**

- LT Untitled comic book ashcan

AFTER CRUSADE**2271**

- BF7 The Lost Tales—Voices in the Dark: Over Here
- BF7 The Lost Tales—Voices in the Dark: Over There
- BF7 The Lost Tales—unfilmed Garibaldi story *[published in script book]*

AFTER CRUSADE**2271–2281**

- DR3 The Psi Corps Trilogy III: Final Reckoning—The Fate of Bester

AFTER CRUSADE**2274–2278**

- DR6 Legions of Fire III: Out of Darkness

AFTER CRUSADE	2278	
• BF2	In the Beginning	[framing story]
• DN1	In the Beginning (novelization)	[framing story]
AFTER CRUSADE	2281	
• BE110	Sleeping in Light	
AFTER CRUSADE	2284	
• BF8	The Road Home	[in part]
AFTER CRUSADE	2362	
• BE88	The Deconstruction of Falling Stars	[in part]
AFTER CRUSADE	2560–2593	
• SA602	Space, Time, and the Incurable Romantic	
AFTER CRUSADE	2762	
• BE88	The Deconstruction of Falling Stars	[in part]
AFTER CRUSADE	3262	
• BE88	The Deconstruction of Falling Stars	[in part]
AFTER CRUSADE	1,000,000 +	
• BE88	The Deconstruction of Falling Stars	[in part]
UNKNOWN	WRITTEN BUT UNAVAILABLE	
• BT1	The Memory of Shadows	
• BT2	Wars of the Mind	[unfilmed, script unavailable]
• MP4	Ashes of the Past	
• MP5	Actions of Many	
• MP6	Birth of Heroes	
• DC12	The Book of War	
UNKNOWN	PROPOSED BUT NEVER WRITTEN	
• BP	Demon in the Dust / Demon on the Run	
• BP	The World Below / Midnight in the Sunken Cathedral	
• BP	Festival!	
• BP	All Our Songs Forgotten / Unnatural Selection	
• BP	Expectations	
• BP	Target: Unknown	
• BP	Metaphors and Body Counts	
• BP	The Very Long Night of Susan Ivanova	
• BP	The Commander's Hour	
• BP	The Customer Is Always Right	
• BP	Rites of Passage	
• BP	The Mysterious Mr. Jones	
• BP	Dream Within a Dream	

"Just the Shows" Viewing Order

For those watching only the episodes and movies, without reading the novels or comics (though you're missing out on some great lore!), here's a simplified list:

- Pilot film: *The Gathering*
- Season 1—all episodes
- Season 2—all episodes
- Season 3—all episodes
- Season 4—stop after episode "The Illusion of Truth"
- Film: *Thirdspace*
- Season 4—remaining episodes
- Film: *In the Beginning* (see note below *)
- Season 5—stop after episode "Secrets of the Souls"
- Season 5—unfilmed episode script "Gut Reactions"
- Season 5—stop after episode "Objects at Rest"
- Animated Film: *The Road Home*
- Film: *River of Souls*
- Film: *The Legend of the Rangers*
- Film: *A Call to Arms*
- *Crusade* (including unfilmed scripts—see note below **)
- Film: *The Lost Tales*
- Season 5— episode "Sleeping in Light" (see note below ***)

* **Note regarding *In the Beginning*:** Technically, this film doesn't take place between seasons 4 and 5. However, that's the best time to watch it the first time you marathon *Babylon 5*. That's when it aired, and it spoils many aspects of the first four seasons since viewers had already seen those seasons, so watching it too soon will ruin a lot surprises for first-time viewers.

** **Note regarding *Crusade*:** This series is presented in the wrong episode order on DVD, and it was aired in a different wrong order. Creator JMS endorses an order that almost works but doesn't quite make sense chronologically. I would instead recommend the following "All-Inclusive Order," proposed by the *Babylon 5 Books* website,¹ which includes the six unfilmed scripts that are available to fans, listed below in red:

- "War Zone"
- "Ruling from the Tomb"
- "The Long Road"
- "The Path of Sorrows"
- "Appearances and Other Deceits"
- "Racing the Night"
- "The Needs of Earth"
- "The Memory of War"
- "Visitors from Down the Street"
- "Each Night I Dream of Home"
 - **To the Ends of the Earth**
- "The Rules of the Game"
- "Patterns of the Soul"
- "The Well of Forever"
 - **Value Judgments**
 - **Tried and True**
 - **War Story**
 - **End of the Line**
 - **Little Bugs Have Lesser Bugs**

*** **Note regarding the *B5* finale, "Sleeping in Light":** This really should be viewed last, for a number of reasons. For one thing, it takes place after all the movies chronologically. For another thing, *River of Souls*, *The Legend of the Rangers*, *A Call to Arms*, *Crusade* and *The Lost Tales*, though all enjoyable to some degree, are a drop in quality from the regular series, so watching the *B5* finale last means you get to end on a powerful and beautiful note that will leave you satisfied... whereas as if you watch it before the films, you'll end your viewing on *The Lost Tales*, which is one of the weaker films and will leave you disappointed. Plus, "Sleeping in Light" provides closure for the saga, so it makes sense to see it after everything else. (Some prefer to watch it at the end of season five, and that's fine, of course.)

¹ <https://b5books.com/crusade-episode-viewing-order/>

Building a Complete *Babylon 5* Collection

Before you can view and read all the above stories, you'll need to get your hands on them, which means you'll need to do some hunting. It won't be easy or cheap, because some of the licensed materials are difficult to find these days. However, if you can track everything down, then going through all of it chronologically can be fun.

Here's what you'll need:

- The DVD box sets of *Babylon 5* seasons 1–5
- The DVD box set of *Crusade* season 1
- The DVDs of the eight *Babylon 5* films: *The Gathering*, *In the Beginning*, *Thirdspace*, *The River of Souls*, *A Call to Arms*, *The Legend of the Rangers*, *The Lost Tales*, and *The Road Home*
- The unfilmed *Babylon 5* script "Gut Reactions": [download the file](#)
- The script for the unfilmed *Lost Tales* segment: [learn more](#)
- Three unfilmed *Crusade* scripts released online at Bookface.com: [download a zip file](#)
- Three other unfilmed *Crusade* scripts, published in *Crusade: The Other Voices*: [learn more](#)
- The 21 published *Babylon 5* novels and novelizations: [view a complete list](#)
- The three Mongoose novels, packaged in a PDF: [download *Deconstruction of Falling Stars*](#)
- The three short stories in *Amazing Stories*, the three in *Official B5 Magazine*, and Claudia Christian's novella *Red Fury*: [download all seven stories](#)
- The 15 *Babylon 5* comics: [view a complete list](#) and [another complete list](#)

NOTE: I avoid all canon debates regarding the novels. With no disrespect whatsoever to anyone (including JMS, whose work I adore), all the novels were officially licensed by franchise owner Warner Bros., including those produced by Mongoose, and are thus part of the franchise as far as I'm concerned. Your mileage may vary, of course, but they're available to read, so why not read 'em? It's more *Babylon 5*, after all. As for *Red Fury*, that one wasn't licensed, I grant you, but Claudia Christian's authorship is reason enough to read it. Why would you *not* read a *Babylon 5* novella written by the actress who played Susan Ivanova?

In addition, there have been various reference books, script books, episode guides, role-playing games, cookbooks, and other resources ([learn more](#)). Although they're not listed above since they're not stories in the typical sense, a lot of them are fun reads and worth tracking down—though expect to pay a lot of money for the script books, assuming you can find them.

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